

October 2005

The Beacon

Sunnyhills United Methodist Church
355 Dixon Road, Milpitas CA 95035

Pastor Shirley Macemon

Church Office

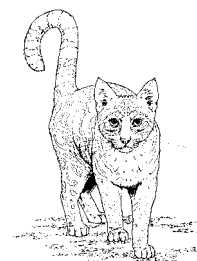
(408) 262-1486

Visit us on the Web!

www.gb-gm-umc.org/sunnyhills

Blessing Of The Animals

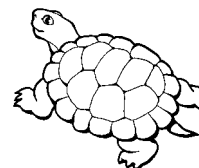
**Sunday—October 9th
10:30 a.m.**



Animals enrich our lives in many ways, freely offering love, companionship, and work skills. Sunnyhills UMC and St. Joseph the Worker Episcopal Church join together to bless the animals on Sunday, October 9th, immediately following the SUMC service.



Please feel free to bring your animals to church (crated, leashed, etc.) and we'll enjoy their presence among us as a reminder of God's work in the natural world.



You may also bring a collar, leash, photo, or other remembrance of your pet if you prefer.

Friends and neighbors very welcome!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

To EVERYONE who made the Circuit Rider event a grand success, including:

Our fearless committee who tirelessly organized the many details, set up, and cleaned up:
Aida Cruz, Lola Dorsey, Cliveden Chew Haas, Jo Roll, Jennifer Touchton, Liza Weber.

Music: Gwen Freeman, Shirley Macemon, and Citi Pascual
Grillmaster: Jack Freeman Artwork: Lynne Pope Photographer: Guy Haas
Horse Handlers: Rebecca Marcus, Leah Marcus, and Cliveden

And, of course, our own Circuit Rider Extraordinaire: Rev. Shirley Macemon!

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

October has flown in, and Sunday, October 9th St Joseph the Worker Episcopal Church will join us for our annual Blessing of the Animal service. This year, we'll shorten our service a bit, and start at 10:30am, as always on the front lawn.



The pets and the animals in our lives are a part of God's creation. The creation stories in Genesis remind us of the responsibilities given to humankind: stewardship responsibilities for the all earth. Blessing our pets and animals reminds us of that respect, of our responsibilities for those living beings we have chosen to care for, and of their importance in our lives.

The animals themselves are a wonderful way to come into community. We get to know more about each other through our animals, and we're liable to reach out to folks we haven't talked to, or don't know very well.

We get to worship in God's great out of doors. Our front lawn is big part of our church campus, but little used. For this service, the community that drives by Sunnyhills knows that something is going on at Sunnyhills! How often do passers-by see a collection of dogs, cats, fish, birds and, yes, horses, bringing their favorite people to church.

Eight hundred years ago, Francis of Assisi cherished the animals around him, and set the stage for the blessing that we participate in on Sunday. I hope you will join us.



Two weeks ago we were on the front lawn too, for our Homecoming. Big thanks go to Cliveden Chew Haas for planning and organizing the entire event; to Jo Roll, Liza Weber, Karen Schreifels, Lola Dorsey, Gwen and Jack Freeman, Guy Haas and James Ogg, who prepared, cooked, set up, cleaned up assured everything run smoothly; to Gwen Freeman, Citi Pascual and the choir for spectacular special music and accompaniment. Thanks also to Rebecca and Leah Marcus for handling Lukas and Willard, and Cliveden for Shane, our Circuit Rider ponies.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Shirley

OCTOBER

Calendar Notes



Staff Parish Committee

*Saturday, October 8th
9:00 a.m.*

Committee members please meet in the Church Office.

WRAP (Administrative Council)

*Saturday, October 8th
10:00 a.m.*

Come join us at our monthly Saturday morning WRAP meetings. We receive committee updates, review financial reports, participate in program planning, and schedule the calendar. You can suggest our next lunch bunch or volunteer in numerous ways. Join us in the planning of our church life. Held in Jones Hall. Coffee/tea/juice and light repast provided.

Blessing of the Animals

*Sunday, October 9th
10:30 a.m.*

Bring your animals to church and stay for the blessing afterwards. See page 1.

Living the Question

Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Adult discussion and study group led by Pastor Shirley.

Annual Church Conference

Sunday November 13th after worship

Our District Superintendent will attend to lead this important business meeting of the whole church. Please mark your calendars and plan to be part of the decision-making process.

**A Very
Happy Birthday!
To**

10/7 Herb Holloway
10/16 Anita Valderrama
10/31 Aida Cruz



